

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** March 24, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on March 17, 2000

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Francis X. Lyons  
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Emergency Response (Oil Spill), Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal (Mile Marker 295), Romeoville, Illinois**

On March 6, 2000, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Rey Rivera and Mike Harris, responded to a request for assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) regarding an oil spill in the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal, mile marker 295. The majority of the oil sheen and plume was located in the loading dock area of the Midwest Generation Plant at 529 East 135th Street in Romeoville, Illinois (the dock is used for loading coal into barges, which transport it to Commonwealth Edison facilities in Chicago, Illinois).

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) took over the Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) contractor initially hired by the USCG for the cleanup. Skirted spill containment booms were placed around the oil plume, as well as upstream and downstream to avoid dispersion due to ship traffic in the Canal. Two oil skimmers collected approximately 5,126 gallons of water and petroleum product from the Canal. Twenty-four 55-gallon drums of oil-contaminated debris, absorbent booms, and pads were removed for disposal. On March 10, 2000, oil appearing to contain the

same characteristics as the oil in the spill was seen flowing out of a pipe on the Midwest Generation Plant property. At that point, the Plant hired a contractor, who took over the cleanup efforts by continuing the collection of oil, and maintaining and changing of the absorbent booms. Midwest Generation, also, continued looking for the source of the oil leak which reached a sump area and caused the spill.

Contacts: Rey Rivera (312-886-1450)  
Mike Harris (312-886-0760)

### **Removal Completed, South Central Terminal Site, Pana, Illinois**

On March 7, 2000, all removal activities at the South Central Terminal site in Pana, Illinois, were completed. A final tour and press event was given by On-Scene Coordinator Pete Guria and Public Affairs Specialist Ginny Narsete to some 50 local officials and media. The cleanup of this abandoned former oil refinery and storage facility was completed 5 months ahead of schedule and \$1 million under the projected budget. As part of the cleanup celebration, the Pana Community High School biology class tossed prairie seed on the new soil, which is free of contamination. The South Central Terminal had been cited by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) for a variety of solid and hazardous waste violations. In 1992, over 200,000 gallons of ammonium sulfate spilled from a leased storage tank into the Kaskaskia River, killing over 156,000 fish. During the cleanup, U.S. EPA removed 782 cubic yards of asbestos, 40,000 gallons of hazardous liquids, 8,600 gallons of hazardous waste oil, 3,716 tons of oil and oil sludge, 9,142 tons of contaminated soil and tank sludge, and 1,856 tons of scrap metal. The Archer Daniels Midland Company, one of the potentially responsible parties, participated in the cleanup by arranging for the transportation and disposal of 768,000 gallons of liquid ammonium sulfate, and 8,585 tons of ammonium sulfate contaminated soil. The story was broadcast on CBS and NBC affiliates, and five newspapers reported good stories. The Illinois EPA will be monitoring additional site construction or redevelopment of the property.

Contacts: Pete Guria (312-353-1909)  
Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)  
Helen Lenart (312-886-6058)

**Settlement, Pepsi-Cola General Bottlers, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio**

On March 13, 2000, U.S. EPA entered into a Consent Agreement and Final Order to resolve a complaint issued against Pepsi-Cola General Bottlers, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio. U.S. EPA issued an Administrative Complaint against this facility assessing \$83,325 in penalties for failing to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC), the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) of a release of 38,050 pounds of ferric sulfate. Ferric Sulfate is a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) hazardous substance with a 1,000 pound reportable quantity (RQ). This release was 38 times the RQ and was reported to the NRC, SERC, and LEPC, approximately 50 hours after a fork lift driver accidentally hit the supply line to a ferric sulfate tank causing the release of ferric sulfate to a storm sewer and into a tributary of Mill Creek. Ferric sulfate is toxic to aquatic life. The facility was evacuated for two hours and three employees were injured while attempting to mitigate the release. Pepsi has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$12,465 (\$4,155 to Superfund, \$8,310 to the U.S. Treasury), and to conduct a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) totaling \$65,000, for a total settlement of \$77,465. Within 90 days of the effective date of this Order, Pepsi will install an open-top concrete secondary containment around their ferric sulfate tank, and will upgrade the control system and add an alarm system to the ammonia refrigeration system used for cooling raw materials and product.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

**Value Engineering Study, Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund Site, Uniontown, Ohio**

During the week of February 28 - March 1, 2000, a value engineering (VE) study was performed on the Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund site at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (Ohio EPA's) Northeast District Office in Twinsburg, Ohio. The purpose of the study was to find and explore alternatives to particular components of the chosen remedy, with an emphasis on cost-effectiveness. Participants included Ross del Rosario, design contractors for U.S. EPA (via conference phone), the Ohio EPA, and the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers (USACE). The study included a site visit on February 28, 2000. In conducting a VE study, the USACE employs a phased approach consisting of the following tasks: 1) Information gathering, 2) Speculation, 3) Analysis, 4) Development, and 5) Presentation phase. Preliminary results gathered from the study indicated that substantial savings (up to \$1 million or more) could be realized if some or all of the proposed design changes are implemented by U.S. EPA. A final report, describing in detail what those proposed changes are and their associated cost savings, is expected to be issued by the USACE in a few weeks.

Contact: Ross del Rosario (312-886-6195)

**Site Visit/Meeting, T. Marzetti Company, Columbus, Ohio**

On February 28, 2000, Oil Enforcement Specialist Beth Henning and On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Karla Auker met with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) OSC Chris Bonner and Harry Kallipolitis, Division of Surface Water, Ohio EPA, to discuss the frequent release of soy oil from the T. Marzetti Company to Adena Brook in Columbus, Ohio. According to Ohio EPA's records, the facility has released soy oil into Adena Brook several times over the last few years. Storm drains in the oil unloading dock area are a problem. Ohio EPA has requested that T. Marzetti roof the unloading dock, thereby eliminating the need for a storm drain in that area. The company contends that the construction of a roof would be too costly. Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA visited the facility and considered appropriate next steps.

Contacts: Karla Auker (440-250-1741)  
Beth Henning (312-886-5892)

**TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

**Oil Pollution Act Planning Meeting (Ohio River), Frankfort, Kentucky**

On March 9, 2000, there was a meeting in Frankfort, Kentucky, regarding Oil Pollution Act (OPA) planning efforts on the Ohio River. Those in attendance included: On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kevin Turner (Emergency Response Branch); Sheila Calovich (Oil Planning and Response Section); OSC Terry

Stillman (U.S. EPA Region 4); OSC Jeff Dodd (U.S. EPA Region 3); representatives from the States of Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio; and, representatives from U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Offices in Paducah and Louisville, Kentucky, and in Huntington, West Virginia. There are several planning efforts being conducted in communities along the Ohio River (Region 5 is currently involved in OPA sub-area planning in Cincinnati, Evansville, and Huntington). The purpose of this meeting was to coordinate planning efforts with Regions 3 and 4, and the States, and to talk about the possibility of one plan for response on the River.

There will be a follow-up meeting during the Joint Regional Response Team meeting during the week of May 15, 2000, in Cincinnati, Ohio (the Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission

will be invited to that meeting to talk about their emergency response plan and how that might enhance these planning efforts).

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

**Freshwater Spills Symposium, Albuquerque, New Mexico**

During March 6-8, 2000, eight people from Region 5 attended this year's Spill Symposium in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Spill Symposium was originally developed in Region 5 and is now sponsored by U.S. EPA Headquarters. Ann Whelan and Barbara Carr of the Emergency Response Branch's (ERB) Oil and Planning Response Section chaired sessions. Sheila Calovich, Mark Durno, Steve Faryan, Karen Vendl, and Betty Lavis of the Emergency Response Branch each gave presentations on various spills or prevention activities. This conference for approximately 300 persons touched on subjects such as cold weather response, tire fires, protection strategies, methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE), and fish and wildlife protection.

Contact: Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)

Barry Breen (OECA)  
Tim Fields (OSWER)  
Steve Luftig (OSWER)  
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)  
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
Division/Office Directors  
ORA State Coordinators  
Regional Team Managers